

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P R 030923Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8308  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 13918

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT UR  
SUJB: KOSYGIN ILLNESS: ENTER VICTOR LOUIS' WIFE

REF: MOSCOW 13856

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FURTHER DETAILS AND SPECULATION ON  
LONDON EVENING NEWS ACCOUNT OF KOSYGIN ILLNESS ADD FILIGREE  
TO THE MYSTERY, THIS TIME IN THE SHAPE OF VICTOR LOUIS'S  
WIFE. END SUMMARY.

2. REUTERS BUREAU CHIEF ROBERT EVANS TOLD EMBOFF  
SEPT 2 THAT VICTOR LOUIS PERSONALLY DENIED TO EVANS  
THAT HE HAD EVER FILED THE STORY, BUT DID NOT DENY THAT  
STORY WAS TRUE OR THAT IT WAS FILED FROM MOSCOW FOR  
PUBLICATION. AFP'S ANTOINE LAZERGES CONFIRMED LOUIS DENIAL,  
ADDING THAT LOUIS SHOWED HIM TELEGRAPHED APOLOGY FROM  
LONDON FOR HAVING PUBLISHED STORY WITH LOUIS BYLINE.  
(WE UNDERSTAND FIRST EDITION OF STORY DID NOT HAVE LOUIS BYLINE.  
LOUIS WAS APPARENTLY IN THE AIR ON RETURN FLIGHT FROM  
SIBERIA AT TIME STORY FILED FROM MOSCOW, AND IS USING  
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THIS AS "AIRTIGHT" ALIBI.

3. SPECULATION IS THEREFORE CENTERING ON LOUIS'S WIFE, JENIFER, A BRITISH SUBJECT AND A CORRESPONDENT FOR TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT. IN INTERNALISTS' MEETING SEPT 2, UK REP RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT SHE RATHER THAN LOUIS HIMSELF FILED, AND THAT EVNINGS NEWS TOOK IT AS A VICTOR LOUIS PIECE. EVANS OF REUTERS PROMOTED SAME IDEA WITH EMBOFF, NOTING THAT JENIFER OFTEN PLACES STORIES ON THE SIDE FOR HER HUSBAND. IN THIS CASE, EVANS SPECULATES, SHE MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO MEET A DEADLINE AND SENT STORY WITHOUT LOUIS' KNOWLEDEG.

4. COMMENT. ABOVE FILIGREE WORK DEEPENS MYSTERY SURROUNDING WAY SOVIETS ANNOUNCED KOYGIN'S ILLNESS, BUT ONLY A LITTLE: BOTH LOUIS AND HIS WIFE DO WHAT THEY ARE TOLD, AND WE DOUBT THAT EITHER WOULD BE EXERCISING JUDGMENT TO EXTENT OF BREADING A STORY THEY WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO BREAK. QUESTION OF WHO AUTHORIZED THE SIGNAL IS INTERDSTING, AND QUESTION OF WHY LOUIS IS DISASSOCIATING HIMSELF FROM IT SO VIGOROUSLY IS PERHAPS EVEN MORE INTERESTING, IN TERMS OF INSIGHTS UNDER THE HANDKERCHIEF OF SOVIET POLITICS, WE WILL KEEP LISTENING FOR ANSWERS. MAIN POLITICAL FACT, HOWEVER, IS THAT KOSYGIN IS GENUINELY ILL, AND THAT MOVES--SUCH AS TIKHONOV APPOINTMENT (REFTEL) -- MUST BE MADE TO TAKE UP WHATEVER SLACK HIS ILLNESS CAUSES.  
TOESSEL

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**TAGS:** PINT, UR, (KOSYGIN, ALEKSEY NIKOLAYEVICH)  
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